

Application No. 10/719,394

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An image transfer printing apparatus, comprising:

a member having an imaging transfer surface;

an applicator assembly for distributing a layer of release liquid onto the imaging transfer surface to produce an intermediate transfer surface; said applicator assembly including a porous member having a core, said core having openings defined therein, a liquid supply system connected to said core for supplying release liquid to saturate said porous member to a low saturation level.

2. (Original) The image transfer printing apparatus of claim 1, further comprising means for supporting said porous member in contact with said member to release and form said liquid layer.

3. (Original) The image transfer printing apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an ink-jet printhead depositing a molten phase-change ink in a phase-change ink image on the intermediate transfer surface; and

means for transferring the phase change ink from the intermediate transfer surface to a receiving medium.

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4. (Previously Presented) The image transfer printing apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a replenishing system associated with said liquid supply system, for maintaining said porous member impregnated with a predefined amount of release liquid.

5. (Previously Presented) The image transfer printing apparatus of claim 4, wherein said replenishing system includes a sensing system for sensing an amount of release liquid impregnated in said porous member.

6. (Previously Presented) The image transfer printing apparatus of claim 5, wherein said replenishing system includes a controller, responsive to said sensing system, for activating said liquid supply system when said porous member is impregnated below said predefined amount of release liquid.

7. (Previously Presented) The image transfer printing apparatus of claim 6, wherein said sensing system includes means for sensing mass of said porous member and generating a signal indicative of the amount of release liquid impregnated in said porous member.

8. (Previously Presented) The image transfer printing apparatus of claim 1, wherein said core is a tube member having an impregnable material thereabouts.

9. (Previously Presented) The image transfer printing apparatus of claim 8, wherein said impregnable material includes foam.

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10. (Original) The image transfer printing apparatus of claim 1, wherein said member is a fuser member.

11. (Currently Amended) A printing apparatus, comprising:
a member having an imaging transfer surface;

an applicator assembly for distributing a layer of release liquid onto the imaging transfer surface to produce an intermediate transfer surface; said applicator assembly including a porous member having a core, said core having openings defined therein, a liquid supply system connected to said core for supplying release liquid to saturate said porous member to a low saturation level.

12. (Original) The printing apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for supporting said porous member in contact with said member to release and form said liquid layer.

13. (Original) The printing apparatus of claim 11, further comprising an ink-jet printhead depositing a molten phase-change ink in a phase-change ink image on the intermediate transfer surface; and
means for transferring the phase change ink from the intermediate transfer surface to a receiving medium.

14. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a replenishing system associated with said liquid supply system, for maintaining said porous member impregnated with a predefined amount of release liquid.

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15. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus of claim 14, wherein said replenishing system includes a sensing system for sensing an amount of release liquid impregnated in said porous member.

16. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus of claim 15, wherein said replenishing system includes a controller, responsive to said sensing system, for activating said liquid supply system when said porous member is impregnated below said predefined amount of release liquid.

17. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus of claim 16, wherein said sensing system includes means for sensing mass of said porous member and generating a signal indicative of the amount of release liquid impregnated in said porous member.

18. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus of claim 11, wherein said core is a tube member having an impregnable material thereabouts.

19. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus of claim 11, wherein said impregnable material includes foam.

20. (Original) The printing apparatus of claim 11, wherein said member is a fuser member.